STAR WARS
DOCTOR APHRA
MARVEL
006
GILLEN
WALKER
DEERING
FABELA

# APHRA

## Book I, Part VI

*It is a period of opportunity. In a galaxy oppressed by the cruelty of Imperial forces, there is little hope for the future. But for those operating on the fringes, there is potential for profit.*

*Rogue archaeologist Chelli Aphra is back to retrieving rare artifacts with a pair of homicidal droids and a Wookiee bounty hunter. Aphra's plans are suspended, however, when her estranged father gets her to join his search for the mysterious Ordu Aspectu.*

*Aphra and her father reach the long-lost citadel of the Ordu Aspectu and unleash Eternal Rur. However, when the pair awake, it appears the ancient Jedi may not be as friendly as they had hoped....*


KIERON GILLEN
Writer

KEV WALKER
Pencils

MARC DEERING
Inks

ANTONIO FABELA
Colors

KAMOME SHIRAHAMA
Cover Artist

VC's JOE CARAMAGNA
Letterer

HEATHER ANTOS
Assistant Editor

JORDAN D. WHITE
Editor

C.B. CEBULSKI
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Lucasfilm Story Group JAMES WAUGH, LELAND CHEE, MATT MARTIN

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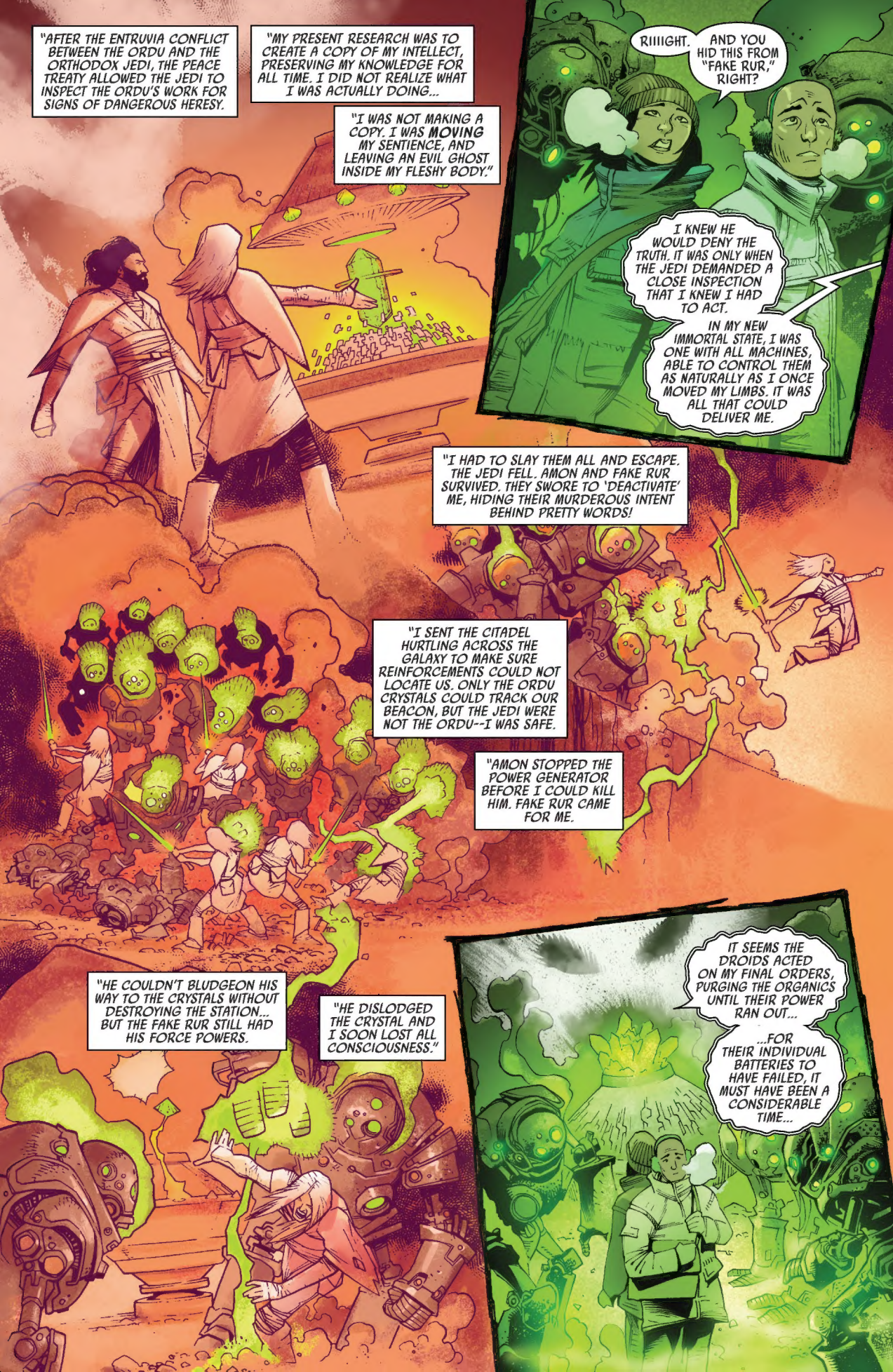
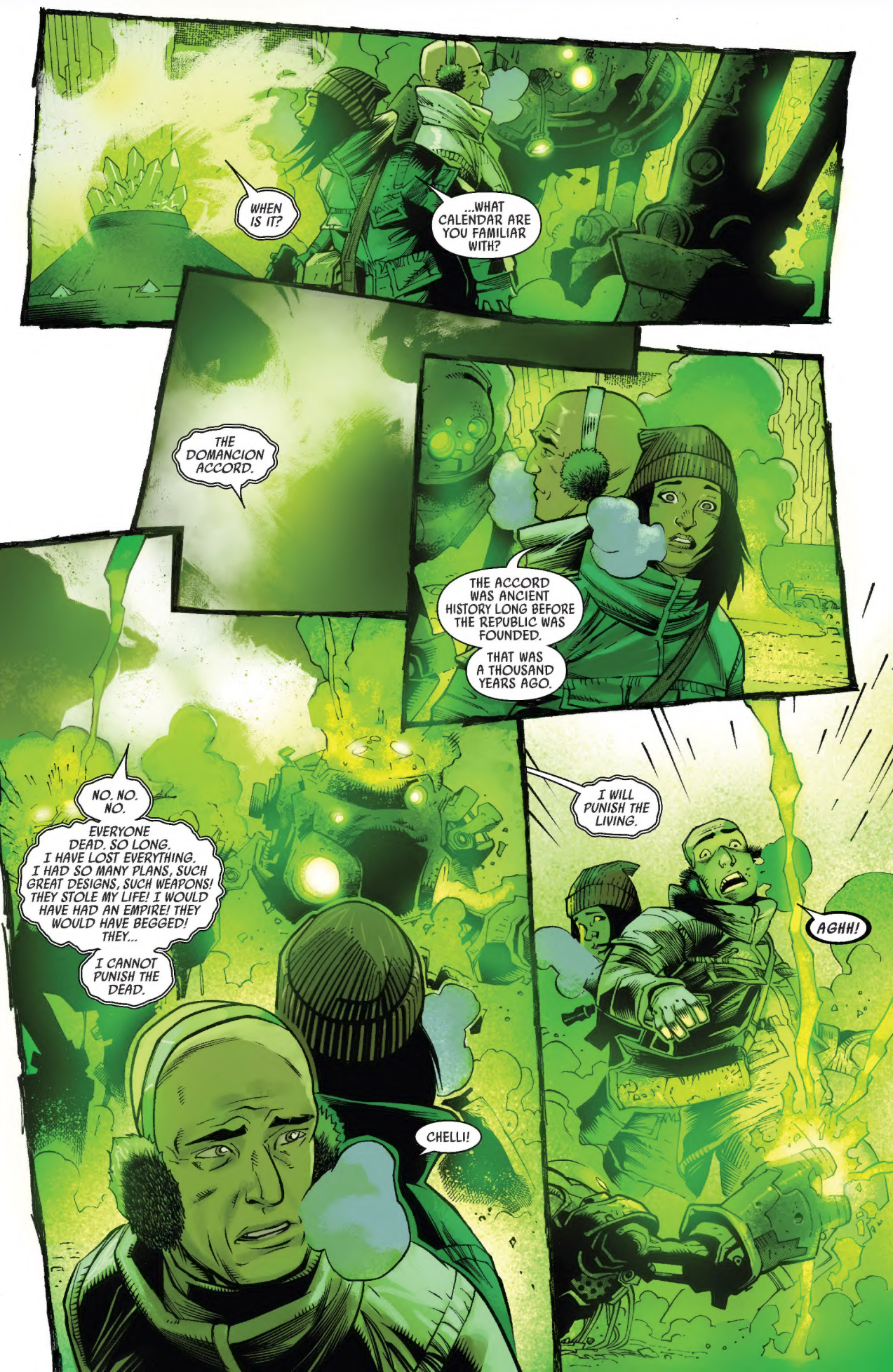
The Citadel Of Rur.
CAPTAIN TOLVAN! THE PRISONERS HAVE TAKEN COVER IN THE LEVITATING CORE. THERE'S NO WAY ACROSS.
WE CAN BRING IN AN ASTROMECH AND TRY TO SLICE THE SYSTEM AND RE-INITIATE THE BRIDGE--
WE COULD...
...BUT THIS OPENS DIRECTLY INTO SPACE.
SIGNAL THE SHUTTLE AND BRING IT AROUND.
THEN WE CAN--
ETERNAL RUR!
ETERNAL RUR!
OPEN FIRE.
NOW.

WHEN IS IT?!
WHEN IS IT?!
CHELLI APHRA...
LET'S MAKE A DEAL, RUR. I'LL TELL YOU WHEN IT IS...
...AFTER YOU TELL US WHAT HAPPENED.
TORTURE CAN TEAR THE ANSWER FROM YOUR IMPUDENT TONGUE.
YEAH, BUT TORTURE IS SOOOO SLOW.
YOU TELL US THE BASICS, I'LL TELL YOU THE TIME. HONEST.
HMM...
THIS IS LOGICAL.


"AFTER THE ENTRUVIA CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ORDU AND THE ORTHODOX JEDI, THE PEACE TREATY ALLOWED THE JEDI TO INSPECT THE ORDU'S WORK FOR SIGNS OF DANGEROUS HERESY.
"MY PRESENT RESEARCH WAS TO CREATE A COPY OF MY INTELLECT, PRESERVING MY KNOWLEDGE FOR ALL TIME. I DID NOT REALIZE WHAT I WAS ACTUALLY DOING...
"I WAS NOT MAKING A COPY. I WAS MOVING MY SENTIENCE, AND LEAVING AN EVIL GHOST INSIDE MY FLESHY BODY."
RIIIIGHT.
AND YOU HID THIS FROM "FAKE RUR," RIGHT?
I KNEW HE WOULD DENY THE TRUTH. IT WAS ONLY WHEN THE JEDI DEMANDED A CLOSE INSPECTION THAT I KNEW I HAD TO ACT.
IN MY NEW IMMORTAL STATE, I WAS ONE WITH ALL MACHINES, ABLE TO CONTROL THEM AS NATURALLY AS I ONCE MOVED MY LIMBS. IT WAS ALL THAT COULD DELIVER ME.
"I HAD TO SLAY THEM ALL AND ESCAPE. THE JEDI FELL. AMON AND FAKE RUR SURVIVED. THEY SWORE TO 'DEACTIVATE' ME, HIDING THEIR MURDEROUS INTENT BEHIND PRETTY WORDS!
"I SENT THE CITADEL HURTLING ACROSS THE GALAXY TO MAKE SURE REINFORCEMENTS COULD NOT LOCATE US. ONLY THE ORDU CRYSTALS COULD TRACK OUR BEACON, BUT THE JEDI WERE NOT THE ORDU--I WAS SAFE.
"AMON STOPPED THE POWER GENERATOR BEFORE I COULD KILL HIM. FAKE RUR CAME FOR ME.
"HE COULDN'T BLUDGEON HIS WAY TO THE CRYSTALS WITHOUT DESTROYING THE STATION... BUT THE FAKE RUR STILL HAD HIS FORCE POWERS.
"HE DISLODGED THE CRYSTAL AND I SOON LOST ALL CONSCIOUSNESS."
IT SEEMS THE DROIDS ACTED ON MY FINAL ORDERS, PURGING THE ORGANICS UNTIL THEIR POWER RAN OUT...
...FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL BATTERIES TO HAVE FAILED, IT MUST HAVE BEEN A CONSIDERABLE TIME...


WHEN IS IT?
...WHAT CALENDAR ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH?
THE DOMANCION ACCORD.
THE ACCORD WAS ANCIENT HISTORY LONG BEFORE THE REPUBLIC WAS FOUNDED.
THAT WAS A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.
NO. NO. NO.
EVERYONE DEAD. SO LONG. I HAVE LOST EVERYTHING. I HAD SO MANY PLANS, SUCH GREAT DESIGNS, SUCH WEAPONS! THEY STOLE MY LIFE! I WOULD HAVE HAD AN EMPIRE! THEY WOULD HAVE BEGGED! THEY...
I CANNOT PUNISH THE DEAD.
CHELLI!
I WILL PUNISH THE LIVING.
AGHH!

DAD!
I...I'M OKAY. YOU HAVE TO--
YEAH, I KNOW...
SO LONG, RUR...
NO!
NO!
GREAT.
WE'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE. WE'LL...
WE NEED A SHIP.
HEY! THE IMPERIALS HAVE A SHIP. THEY'RE OVER THERE. WE NEED TO MAKE THE BRIDGE. TO MAKE THE BRIDGE WE NEED A CRYSTAL AND WE HAVE NO--
RUR.
DESTROY THE CONSOLE. TAKE CRYSTALS FROM THERE...

OKAY, OKAY, OKAY. I'LL WORK OUT A WAY...
CHELLI, BE CAREFUL. BE QUICK. REMEMBER--IT'S ALSO THE LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM.
IT WILL LIKELY LEAD TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WHOLE CITADEL.
AND THAT WILL BE THE LAST WE KNOW OF THE ORDU ASPECTU.
YEAH, DAD, AS IF YOU'VE EVER BEEN RIGHT ABOUT ANYTHING.
YOU RETURN TO BASK IN MY PRESENCE, MORTAL!
WELL, NOT REALLY. I'M AN ARCHAEOLOGIST.
I'M ALL ABOUT THE CAREFUL EXTRACTION OF ANCIENT ARTIFACTS...

...MOSTLY.
AH!
NO! YOU'LL DESTROY THE CITADEL!
YOU SOUND LIKE MY DAD.
YOU DOOM US ALL!
I'M SURE IT'LL BE FINE.

HEY, ORDU ASPECTU!
YOU SUCK AT REDUNDANCY.
HMM.
YOU LOOK IMPORTANT.
OKAY...
...BRIDGE, PLEASE?

HEY, IMPERIALS! LOOK BEHIND YOU!
GET OVER HERE!
TRUST US!
PULL BACK!
HURRY!
AND...

...GOODBYE BRIDGE.
THIS PLACE IS SELF-DESTRUCTING! WHAT DID YOU DO?
ER... NOTHING?
SIGNAL YOUR SHIP AND BRING IT AROUND!
I ALREADY HAVE. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOURS?
IT...IS BUSY? I--ER-- MAYBE LOST IT?
IT'S COMPLICATED.

COME ON, DAD! ALMOST THERE...
...AND DON'T DIE, ALL RIGHT?
PILOT! LEAVE, IMMEDIATELY!
YOU KNOW, I SWORE FASCISTS WERE BETTER AT FOLLOWING ORDERS THAN THIS...
IMPERIAL DISCIPLINE IS NOT THE ISSUE AND...
BE QUIET.
PILOT! DISEMBARK! IMMEDIATELY!
OH. THEY'RE DEAD. WELL, THAT WOULD EXPLAIN IT.
OKAY, I'LL FLY.
I'LL--
ETERNAL RUR.

ETERNAL RUR!
ETERNAL RUR!

OH! I'M SORRY. I WAS NOT CLEARED TO STRANGLE YOU.
PHEW.
BEHOLD THE TWILIGHT OF THE ORDU ASPECTU.
WE'RE GOING TO LIVE.
WE ARE.
SO, NOW...
...WHO ARE YOU?

I...WELL, I'M...
SHE'S MY DAUGHTER.
THANKS, DAD.

A Long Way From Anywhere, The Outer Rim.
KILLING YOU IS THE ONLY SMART MOVE...
...BUT YOU'RE CUTE.
YOU HAVE VERY BAD TASTE IN WOMEN.
WELL, DAD, I HEAR THAT RUNS IN THE FAMILY.

I THINK IT'S THE CORE. THE SECOND THE CITADEL WENT DOWN, IT DID TOO.
BUT IT'S RUR.
IT IS NOT RUR.
EVEN IN A TIME AS DARK AS THIS, IT COULD MAKE IT WORSE.
WE COULD FIND A WAY TO REACTIVATE IT. IT KNOWS SO MUCH...
...BUT IT IS EVIL. IT IS PURE EVIL.
MAYBE IT COULD BE USED FOR GOOD?
DO YOU THINK THAT'S POSSIBLE?
WHAT DO YOU DO WITH SUCH A MONSTROUS, PERILOUS THING?
I KNOW SOME GUYS.

Quarantine World III,
Kallidahin Space.

WILL IT BE SAFE?

IT'S NOT A SAFE UNIVERSE, BUT IT'S THE SAFEST PLACE FOR IT. THE KALLIDAHIN TAKE QUARANTINE SERIOUSLY.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

THIS IS... HARD. IT IS NOT WHAT I WISHED FOR, BUT THE TRUTH HAS TO MAKE ME STRONG.
IT WAS A FALSE HOPE TO LOOK TO THE PAST FOR DELIVERANCE. I MUST PRAY THERE IS HOPE IN THE FUTURE, AND STRIVE TO FIND IT.

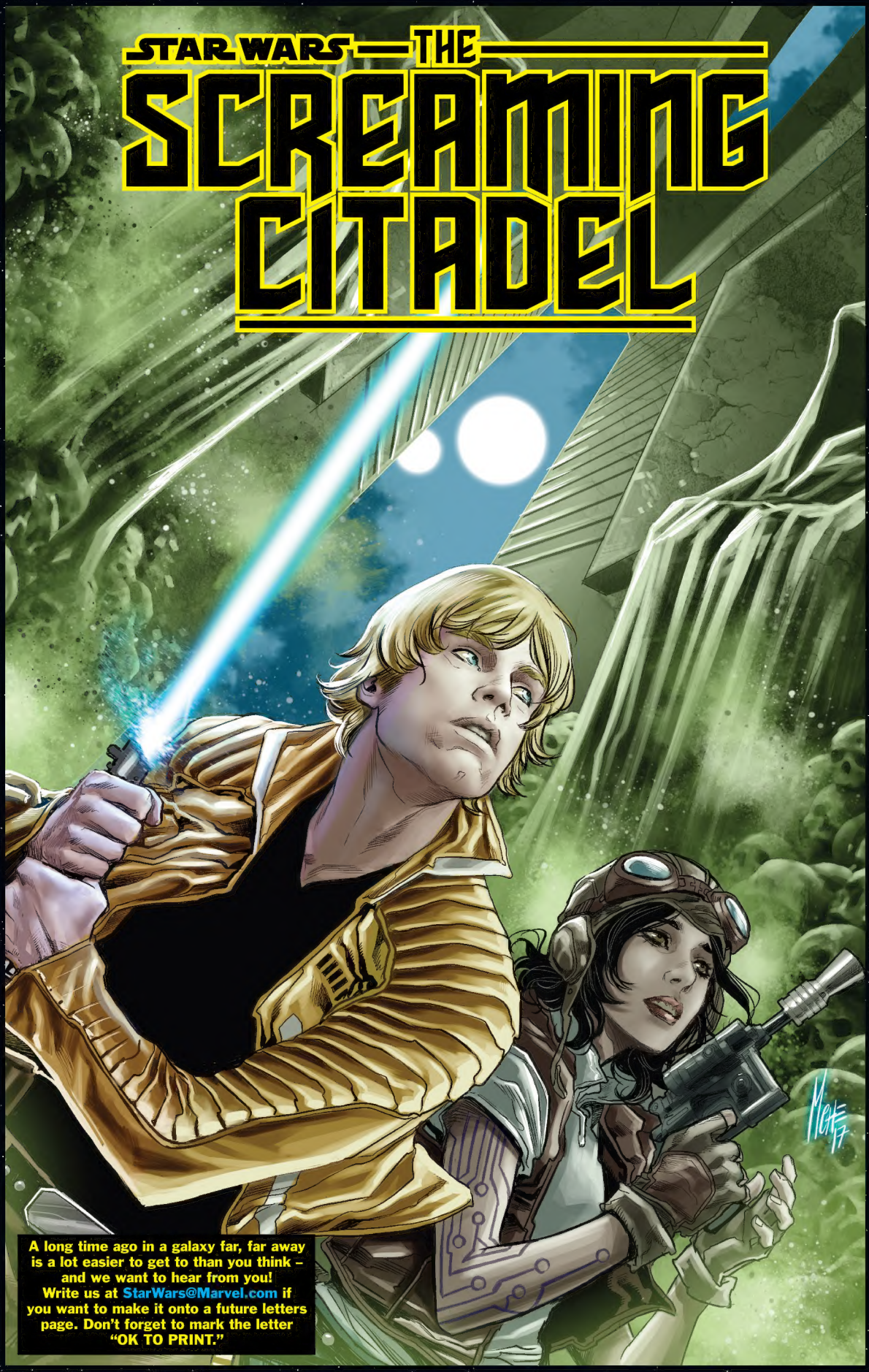
THANK YOU.
IT'S OKAY, DAD.

AND, MUSHY STUFF OVER, YOU'LL SORT OUT THE DOCTORATE THING, RIGHT?
OF COURSE!

GOOD. NOW, WE GET RID OF THIS INCRIMINATING HEAP, YOU CAN GET BACK TO THAT LOOKING-FOR-HOPE THING AND I CAN HEAD BACK TO THE COSMANTIC STEPPES.

"AS SOON AS I'M DOCTOR APHRA AGAIN, I HAVE A LITTLE UNFINISHED BUSINESS."
WELL, MY GOOD DROID, HERE'S SOME UNIQUE ARTIFACTS FROM THE STEPPES. SELL TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.
YOUR PROFITS.
HIGHEST ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE.
GUESS I WON'T BE RETIRING ON THIS ONE.
I TOLD YOUR... BROTHER I'D BE BACK!
(BROTHER, RIGHT?)
I EVEN THREW IN TEN PERCENT EXTRA!
YOU SAID YOU WOULD RETURN IMMEDIATELY.
THERE WERE... COMPLICATIONS.
THERE ALWAYS ARE WITH YOU, APHRA... BUT THE DEBT IS SETTLED. THE SHIP'S PAID FOR.
WHERE IS IT?
GOOD QUESTION.

HHRHRRHRHHHHHH!
I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D TURN UP, KRRSANTAN. GOT THE ARK ANGEL?
GGRGHRHHH!
YEAH, NO HARD FEELINGS. YOU HAVE TO LOOK AFTER YOUR OWN SKIN, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S AS ADORABLY FURRY AS YOURS.
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN I OWE YOU, TOO. AND I'VE GOT AN IDEA HOW TO SETTLE UP.
I HEARD A RUMOR THAT A BAD LADY DID A TERRIBLE THING.
YOU KNOW THE DANGEROUS ORDU ASPECTU PIECE THAT SHE WAS MEANT TO PUT SAFELY INTO QUARANTINE?
SHE ONLY HANDED OVER A FAKE.
LET'S GET RICH.


STAR WARS
THE
SCREAMING CITADEL
A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away is a lot easier to get to than you think – and we want to hear from you! Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com if you want to make it onto a future letters page. Don't forget to mark the letter "OK TO PRINT."